

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 INRE-00  
SSO-00 /039 W

-----054651 180907Z /23

O 180805Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2174

UNCLAS ROME 7119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CHARTER FLIGHT CLEARANCE

1. TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE (TIA) ATLANTA OFFICE HAS BEEN SEEKING CLEARANCE FOR TWO FRIENDSHIP FORCE FLIGHTS RICHMOND/GENOA/ RICHMOND ON MAY 1 RETURNING MAY 11 AND ON MAY 2 RETURNING MAY 10. TIA AGENT IN ROME NOW SEEKING EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING CLEARANCE FOR FLIGHTS. ITALIAN CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES HAVING DIFFICULTY DETERMINING IN WHAT CHARTER CATEGORY IF ANY THESE FLIGHTS FALL.

2. FLIGHTS DESCRIBED IN FOLLOWING TERMS IN TELEXES FROM TIA ATLANTA OFFICE TO TIA AGENT ROME:  
"FRIENDSHIP FORCE (FF) PROGRAM ARRANGES EXCHANGE VISITS BETWEEN CITIZENS OF TWO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE FOR U.S. CITIZENS TO SPEND TIME IN HOMES OF ITALIAN CITIZENS AND FOR ITALIAN CITIZENS TO STAY IN HOMES OF U.S. CITIZENS. AS PREVIOUSLY STATED PROGRAM HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT CARTER AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE AT HIGH DIPLOMATIC LEVELS."

"PASSENGERS PAY 250 USD AS A MEMBERSHIP OR INDUCTION FEE TO JOIN THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE BEFORE DESTINATION IS EVER ANNOUNCED. SOME PASSENGERS WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY THIS FEE ARE SUBSIDIZED BY THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OR SPONSORED BY OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS.

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ENTIRE OPERATION OF THE FIRNEDSHIP FORCE, FOR EXAMPLE SALARIES OF FEW PAID EMPLOYEES, OFFICE SPACE, POSTAGE, ETC., IS PAID FOR BY LARGE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM WEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES. FROM THESE DONATIONS AND FROM INDUCTION FEES, ALL EXPENSES ARE PAID INCLUDING COST OF FLIGHTS. TO SUM IT UP, PASSENGERS DO NOT PURCHASE TICKETS FOR FLIGHT OR PURCHASE TOUR PACKAGE, BUT ARE PAYING TO JOIN AND THEN ARE ADVISED OF WHERE THEY WILL

BE GOING."

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST U.S. CIVIL AVIATION  
AUTHORITIES OPINION OF FLIGHT CATEGORY IN WHICH FRIENDSHIP  
FORCE PROGRAM FALLS.

4. FYI: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, MRS. CARTER'S MOTHER PLANS TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE MAY 2 CHARTER AND FRIENDSHIP FORCE  
ACTIVITIES IN GENOA. END FYI.GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FLIGHT CLEARANCES, AIRLINES, AIR ROUTE APPLICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** EAIR, IT, US, TRANS INTL AIRLINES, TIA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014